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Research Program

Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
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2016-2017 Public Land Harvest Reporting Systems Report: Harvest, Satisfaction, and Preference



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2016-2017
PUBLIC LAND HARVEST REPORTING SYSTEMS REPORT:
Harvest, Satisfaction, and Preference

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-26
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 102.1

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Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-26
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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ABSTRACT

We sampled 2,830 Illinois hunters from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources licensing database that indicated hunting on public land in Illinois at least once in the past two hunting seasons. The survey sample consisted of public land hunters from a 2016 site-intercept survey, hunters indicating hunting public land on past Hunter Harvest Surveys, and hunters who obtained an online windshield cards during the 2016-17 season (names and addresses provided by the IDNR). Licensees were mailed a 4-page self-administered questionnaire designed to query hunters about the harvest reporting systems used on public land in Illinois. We received 1,580 questionnaires, 1,476 (57.7%) of which were usable. Respondents indicated hunting public property most often, while private property not owned by the respondent was the private property type hunted most often. Telephone check-in was the harvest reporting method hunters preferred to use most, while check station was the method hunters preferred to use least. The majority of respondents obtained an online windshield card, and the majority of those hunters waited until the end of the season to update their windshield card information to the online reporting system. Attitude statements investigated hunter opinions towards different aspects of the windshield card system, and support for implementing a single-method statewide harvest reporting system. Hunters were also asked about season harvest, satisfaction of reporting methods, obtaining information, using the online windshield card system, and additional background information.

OBJECTIVE

To survey Illinois public land hunters to determine their activities, satisfaction, characteristics, and opinions of the multiple method harvest reporting system used on public land in Illinois.

METHODS

A sample of 2,830 Illinois public land hunters who indicated hunting on public land in Illinois at least once in the past two hunting seasons was selected from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR)

license sales database. Each hunter was mailed a 4-page questionnaire (Appendix A), cover letter (Appendix B), and a postage-paid return envelope on 22 May 2017. The initial sample of 2,830 licenses was reduced to 2,559 due to undeliverable addresses. Nonrespondents were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) on 07 June 2017. Remaining nonrespondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 19 June 2017. Hunters who did not respond to the previous mailings were mailed a second thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) on 10 July 2017. Remaining nonrespondents were mailed a third questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) on 24 July 2017. Season date information can be located in Appendix F. IDNR Wildlife Management Units can be located in Appendix G.

RESULTS

A total of 1,580 license purchasers responded to the survey. Of these, 1,476 were considered usable, resulting in a 58% response rate.

Hunter Activity

We sampled 2,830 public land hunters in Illinois and received 1,580 questionnaires, of which 1,464 were usable, for a 58% response rate. Almost all (98.6%) hunters in our sample purchased a hunting license in 2016 (Figure 1). Approximately one-quarter (24.4%) of hunting license holders reported that they purchased their hunting license online. Ninety-six percent of hunters hunted at least one wildlife species in Illinois between March 2016 and February 2017 (Figure 2). Harvest estimates for 2016-17 Post-Season Harvest Reporting survey respondents are presented in Table 1.

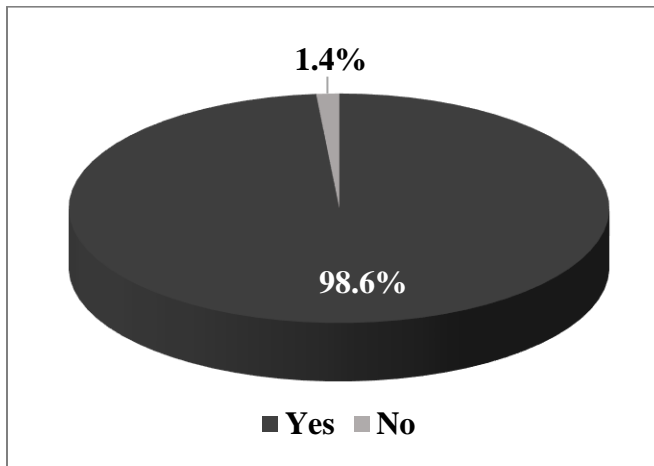


Figure 1. Percentage of hunters who purchased a hunting license in 2016 ($n=1,464$).

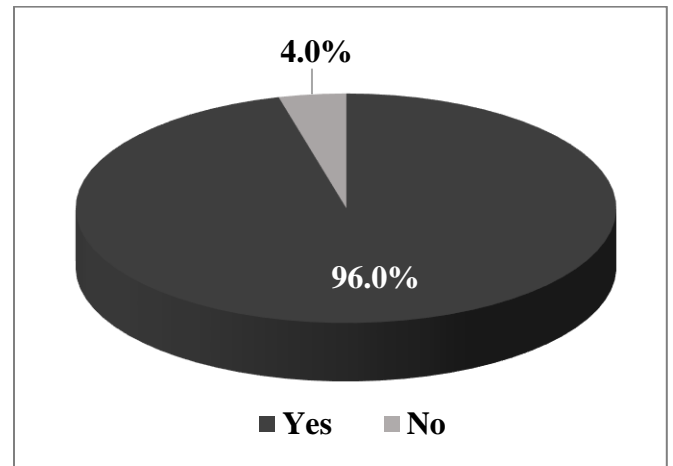


Figure 2. Percentage of license purchasers who hunted at least one wildlife species in Illinois between March 2016 and February 2017 ($n=1,463$).

Public land hunting and satisfaction

When hunters were asked which type of land they hunted most often, public property (54.9%) was most popular (Figure 3). Private property not owned by the respondent (28.0%), their own private property (10.9%), and private property owned by the family (5.6%) were private property types hunted at a lesser frequency. Although roughly half of the respondents indicated hunting public property most often, 87.9% reported having hunted public sites at least once during the 2016-2017 hunting season (Figure 4). Among those who spent ≥ 1 day hunting for any game species in Illinois during the 2016-17 hunting season, nearly half (48.4%) of respondents indicated hunting only one public site (Figure 5). Respondents indicated hunting a mean of 1.99 (± 2.7) public sites during the 2016-17 hunting season.

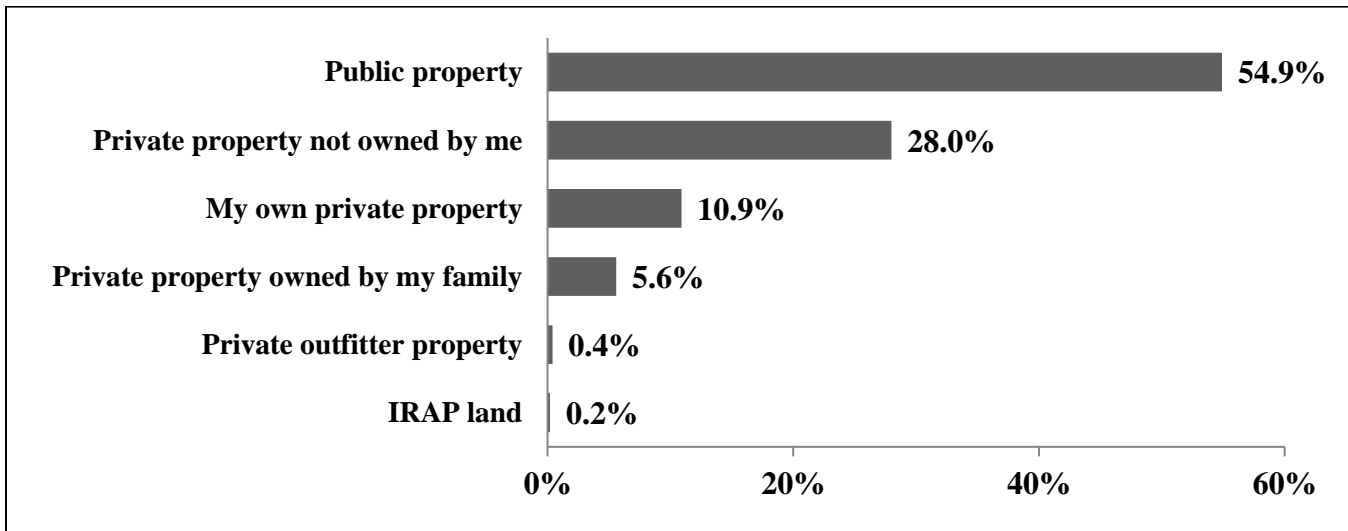


Figure 3. Types of property Illinois hunters hunted most often ($n=1,401$).

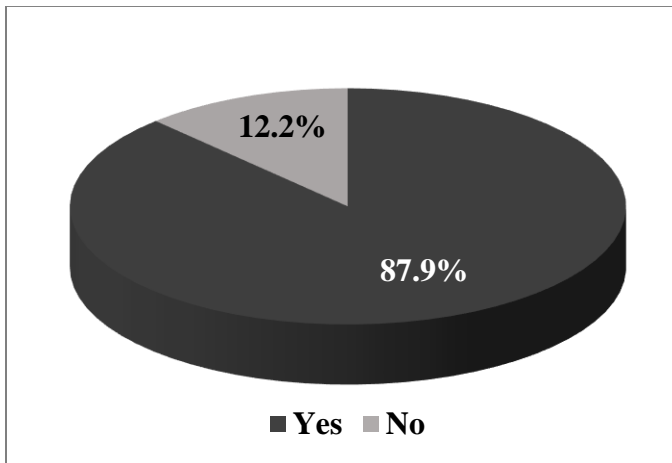


Figure 4. Percent of hunters who indicated hunting public land in Illinois during the 2016-17 hunting season ($n=1,399$). *Restricted to those that hunted one day or more in Illinois 2016-17.

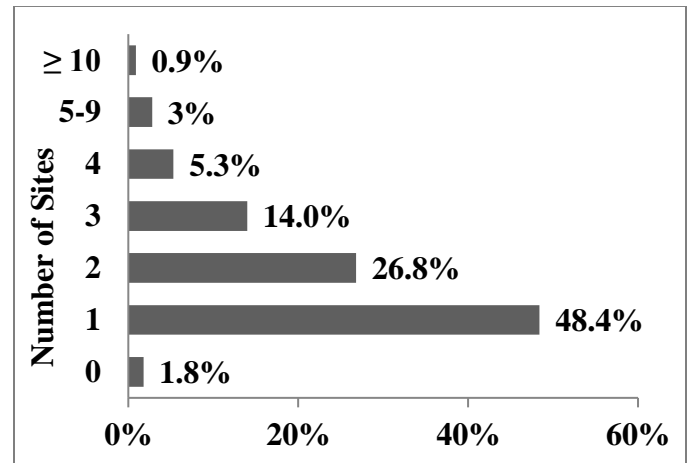


Figure 5. Number of public sites hunted in Illinois during the 2016-17 hunting seasons ($n=1,240$, $\bar{x}=1.99$, S.D.=2.67) *Restricted to those that hunted one day or more in Illinois 2016-17.

The majority (58.4%) of respondents indicated hunting one public hunting site that required the windshield card (Figure 6). Only 16.9% of hunters reported hunting zero public sites that required the windshield card. Hunters were most likely to exclusively hunt sites that used the windshield card system if they had only hunted one public site during the 2016-17 season (Table 2). The more sites that respondents hunted, the less likely they were to hunt only sites requiring online windshield cards.

In a “typical hunting season”, 7.2% of hunters reported that they did not hunt at any public sites, whereas 36.5% hunters reported hunting one public site (Figure 7). Additionally, 29.8% of respondents reported hunting two public sites, 14.8% reported three public sites, 7.0% reported four public sites, and 4.7% reported hunting five or more public sites in a typical hunting season. Respondents hunt a mean 2.07 (± 2.5) public sites in a typical hunting season.

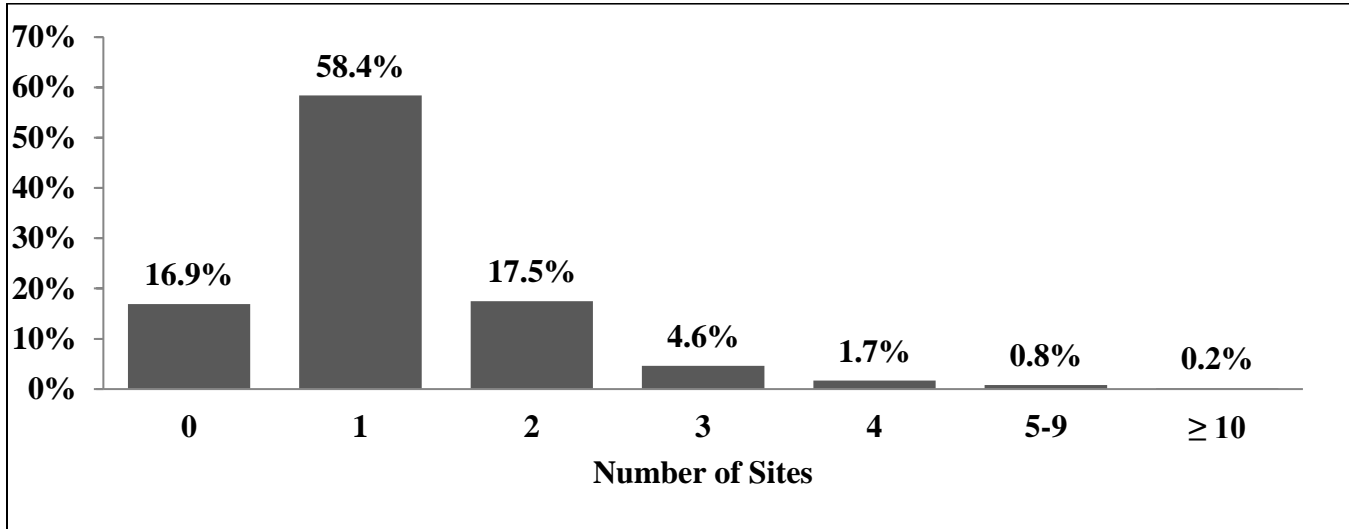


Figure 6. Number of public sites that required the free online windshield card in Illinois during the 2016-17 hunting seasons ($n=1,240$, $\bar{x}=1.21$, S.D.=1.11). *Restricted to those that hunted one day or more in Illinois 2016-17.

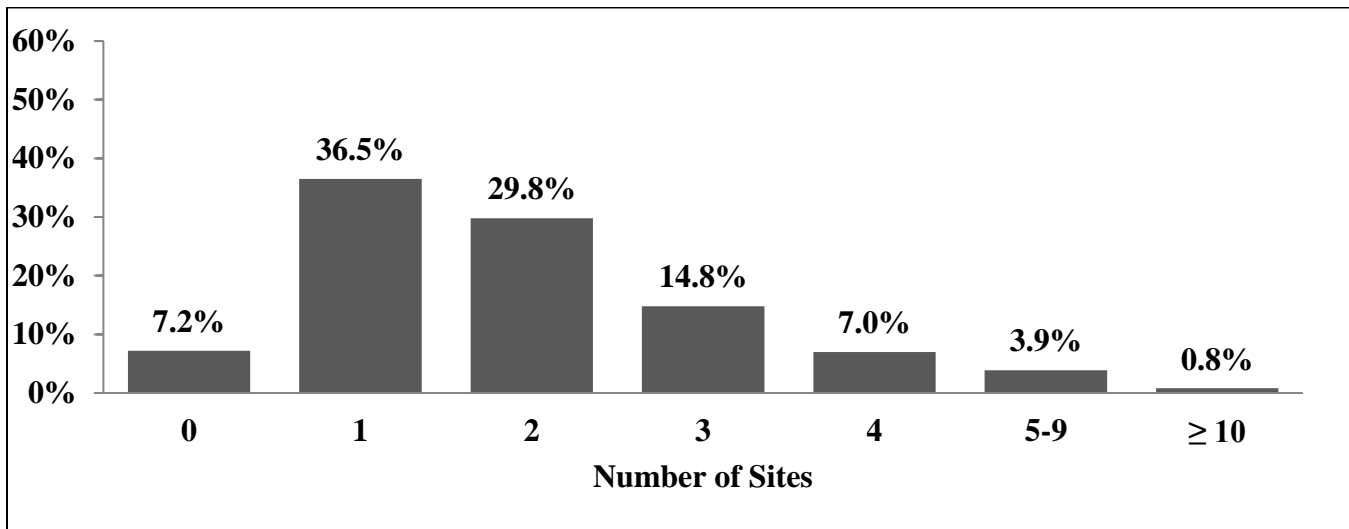


Figure 7. Number of public sites hunted in Illinois in a typical hunting season ($n=1,420$, $\bar{x}=2.07$, S.D.=2.47).

Hunters rated their satisfaction with the harvest reporting systems using a 5-point unipolar scale from very dissatisfied to very satisfied. Online/Telephone harvest reporting for deer and turkey was the most popular system, with a mean rating of 4.06 (S.D. 1.07, $n=1,361$) (Table 3). Windshield cards ($n=1,399$, $\bar{x}=3.76$, S.D. 1.16), drop box harvest reporting ($n=1,311$, $\bar{x}=3.74$, S.D. 1.07), and check stations ($n=1,333$, $\bar{x}=3.85$, S.D. 1.15) all received moderately satisfied ratings from survey respondents. Over 50% of respondents did not have experience using the drop box harvest reporting method, whereas only 12.4% of respondents did not have experience using the online windshield card system. This response is not unexpected, as the majority of the mail survey sample was derived from hunters found in the online windshield card system.

Respondents were asked which harvest reporting system they preferred most, of which telephone check-in was rated the highest (38.1%; Figure 8). Additionally, online check-in was preferred by 25.4% of the respondents, while check-in stations were preferred by 21.3% of respondents. Only 15.1% of hunters preferred the online windshield card system. Although when asked which harvest reporting system hunters preferred to use the least, check-in stations were the highest rated at 34.3% (Figure 9). Online windshield cards (24.0%), online check-in (21.6%), and telephone check-in (20.1%) were evenly distributed among those hunters preferred least.

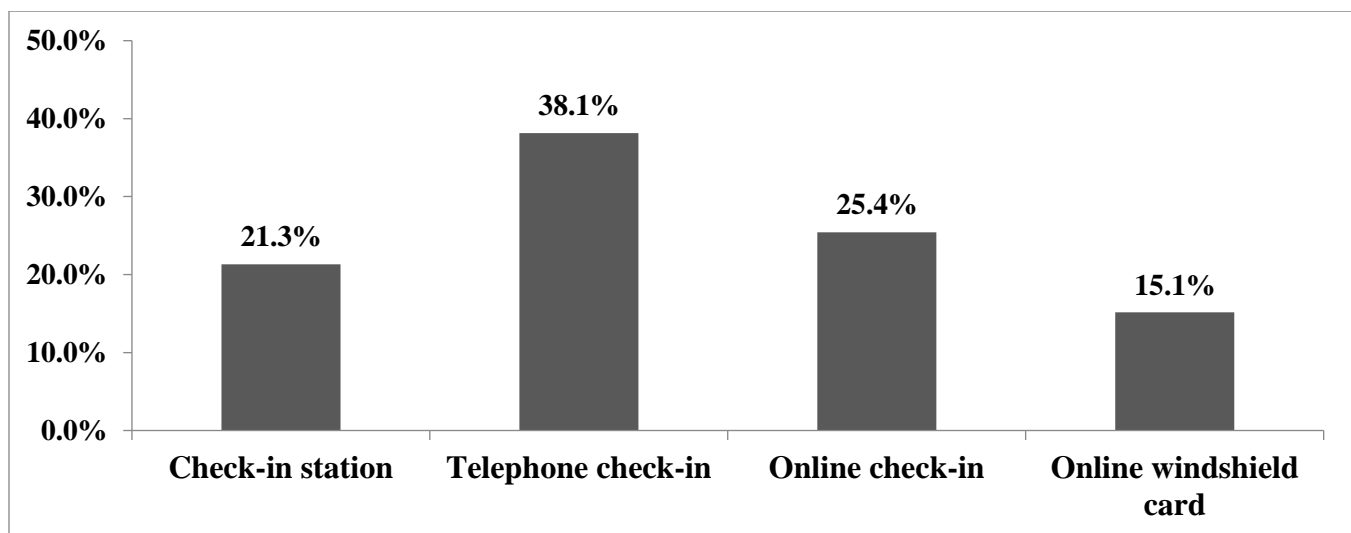


Figure 8. Harvest reporting procedures that hunters prefer to use most ($n=1,440$).

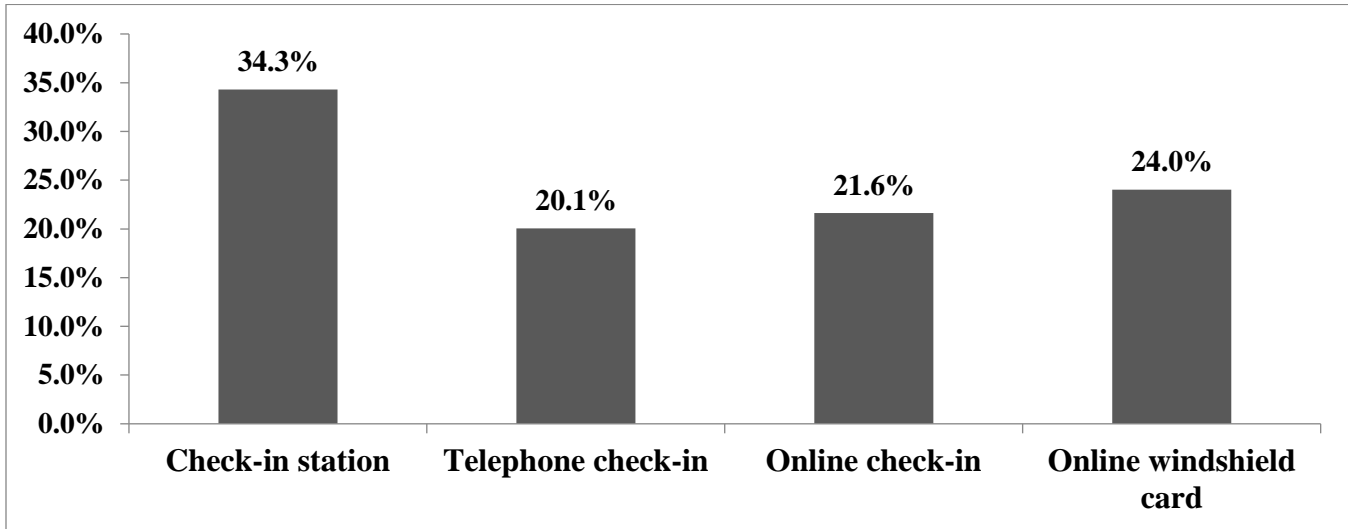


Figure 9. Harvest reporting procedures that hunters prefer to use least ($n=1,411$).

Regarding the extent of the public site permit process influencing respondents' desire to hunt public lands, 58.4% of hunters reported no influence, whereas 28.8% reported the permit process making them want to hunt public land less (Figure 10). The public site permit process affected 12.8% of hunters desire to hunt public lands more often.

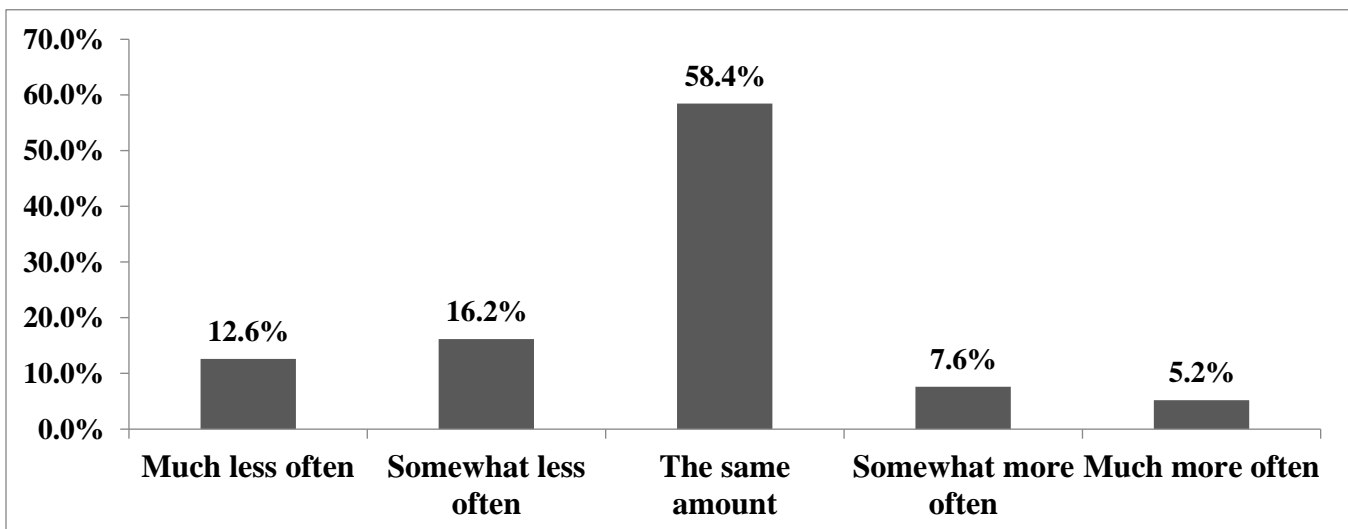


Figure 10. The extent to which the public site permit process affect hunters' desire to hunt public lands ($n=1,410$).

Obtaining Information

A majority (53.9%) of respondents obtained information about harvest reporting by visiting the Illinois DNR website (Figure 11). Visiting an IDNR site office (3.7%) and calling the IDNR information hotline (2.9%) were the least popular ways to obtain information about reporting harvest. The likelihood of using a 24/7 proposed kiosk to obtain site information was high: half (49.7%) of respondents were moderately to extremely likely to use the kiosk, whereas 27.5% were somewhat likely to use kiosks (Figure 12). Hunters also indicated that GPS coordinates for key features (e.g. parking lots, property boundaries, and landmarks) posted on the hunter fact sheets on the IDNR website would be helpful for their hunts. Over one-third (36.5%) reported GPS coordinates would be extremely helpful, whereas only 16.3% of hunters felt they would not be helpful at all (Figure 13).

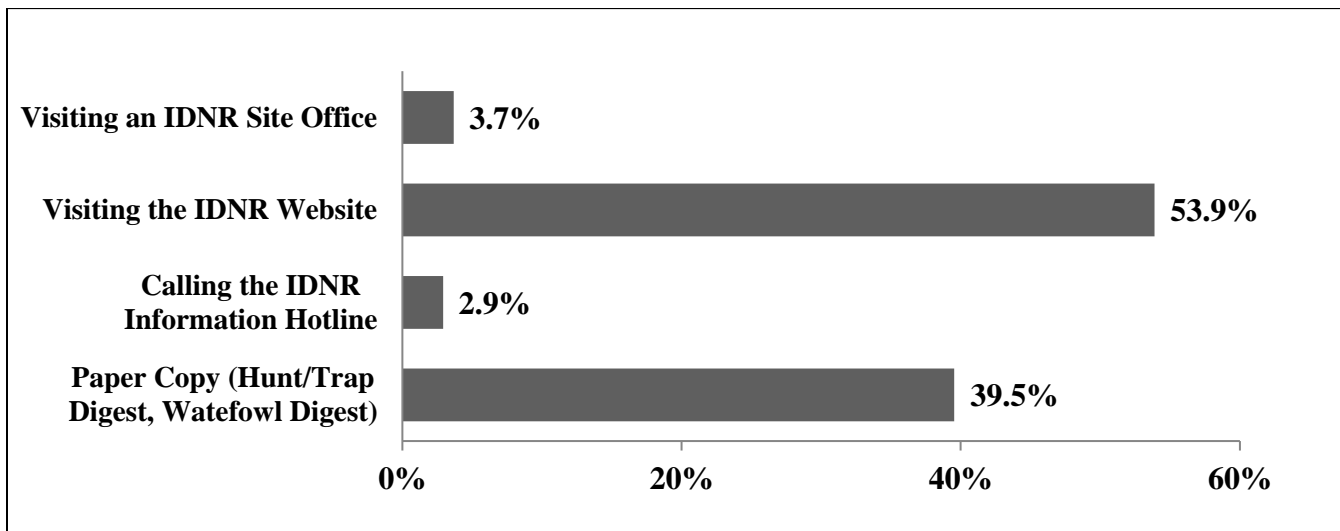


Figure 11. How hunters obtain information about harvest reporting in Illinois ($n=1,444$).

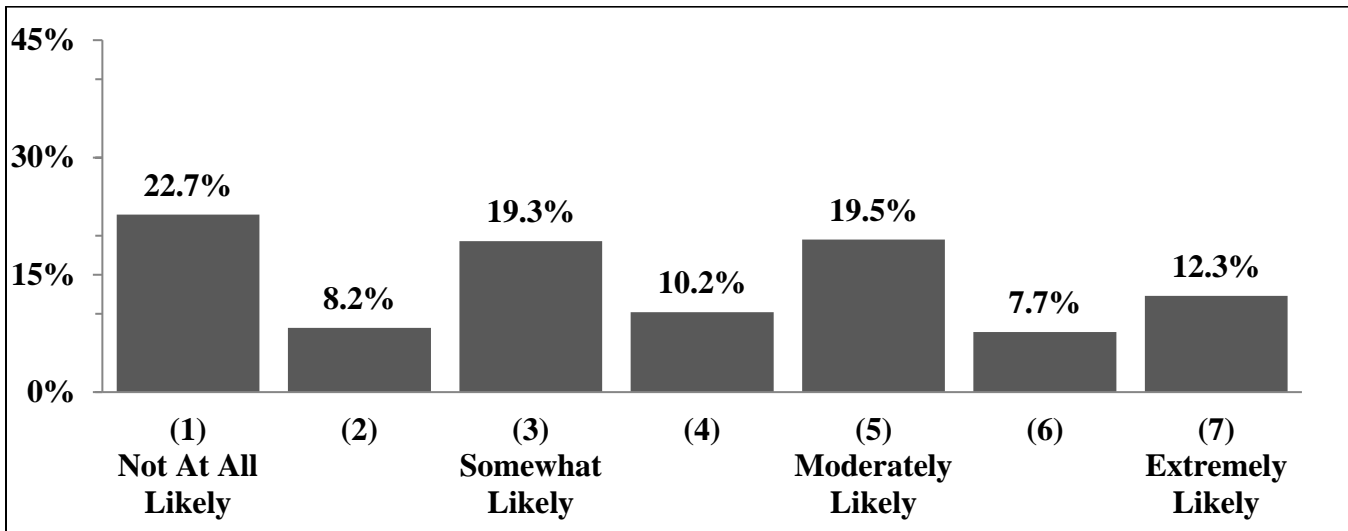


Figure 12. Hunters' likelihood to use a 24/7 Kiosk to obtain site information ($n=1,433$, $\bar{x}=3.68$, S.D. 2.02).

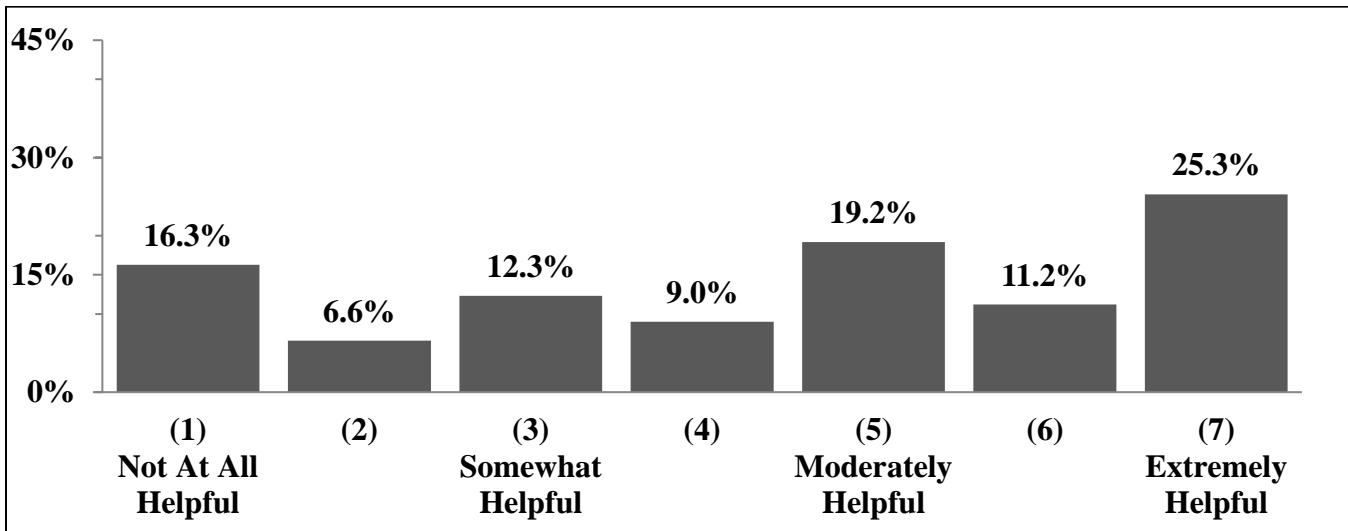


Figure 13. Hunters' opinion of how helpful GPS coordinates for key features (e.g. parking lots, property boundaries, and landmarks) posted on the hunter fact sheets on the IDNR website would be for their hunt. ($n=1,450$, $\bar{x}=4.43$, S.D. 2.14)

Online Windshield Card Harvest Reporting System

A majority (76.0%) of respondents obtained a windshield card during the 2016-17 season (Figure 14).

The majority (59.1%) of windshield card recipients received one windshield card, and the mean number of windshield cards received during the 2016-17 season was 1.6 cards (S.D. 0.94, $n=1,095$) per hunter (Figure 15).

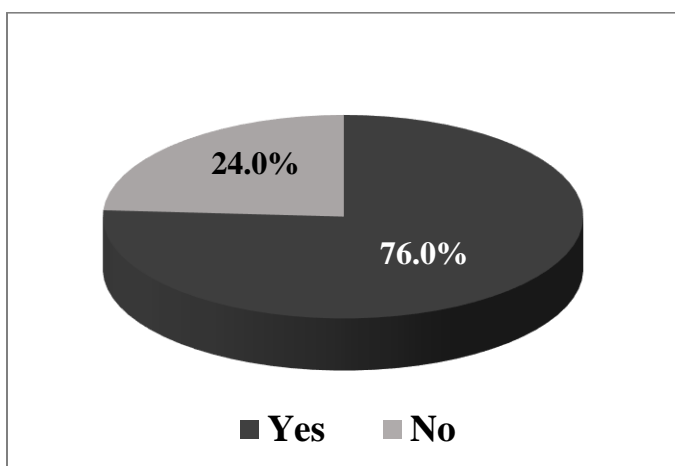


Figure 14. Respondents that applied for a free online windshield card during the 2016-17 season ($n=1,450$).

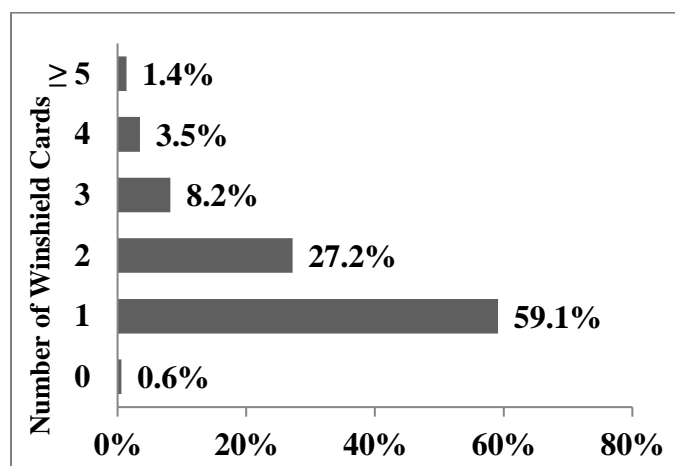


Figure 15. Number of windshield cards respondents received during the 2016-17 season ($n=1,095$, $\bar{x}=1.6$, S.D. 0.941).

The majority (58.7%) of online windshield card recipients used all of their obtained windshield cards. Hunters who received fewer cards (1 card = 89.9%) were most likely to use all of their cards, whereas hunters who received numerous cards (5 cards = 25.0%) were less likely to use all their windshield cards (Table 4). When asked how often hunters updated their windshield card information to the online system, the majority (73.3%) did not update their harvest information until at the end of the season (Figure 16).

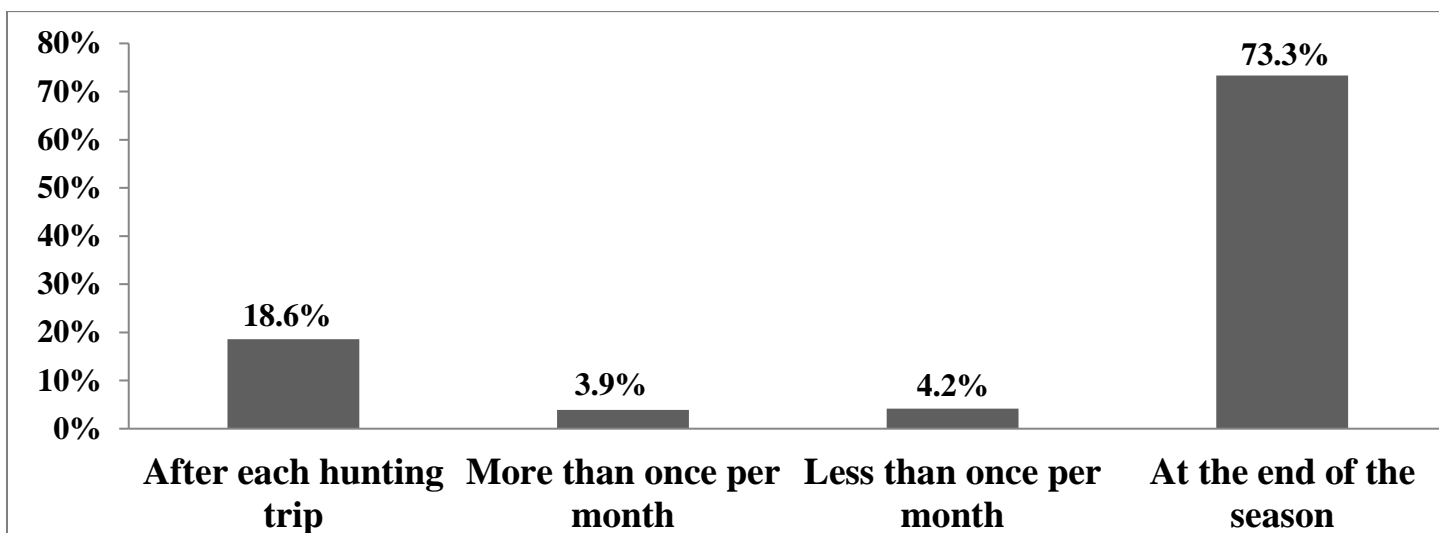


Figure 16. How often survey respondents updated their windshield card information to the online harvest report ($n=1,226$).

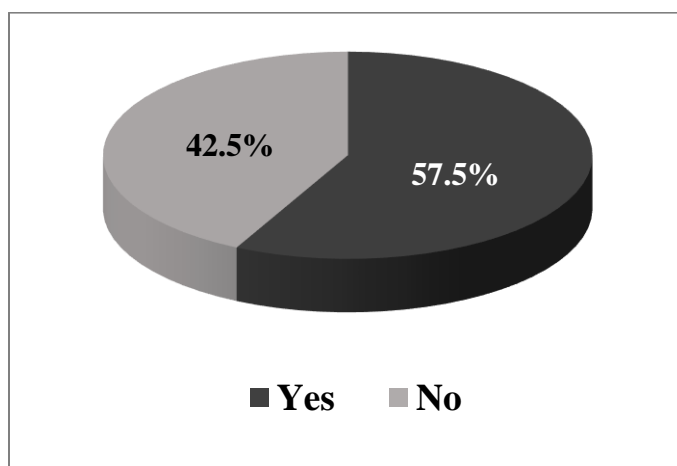


Figure 17. Percentage of hunters that kept their own records of daily harvest during hunting season ($n=1,454$)

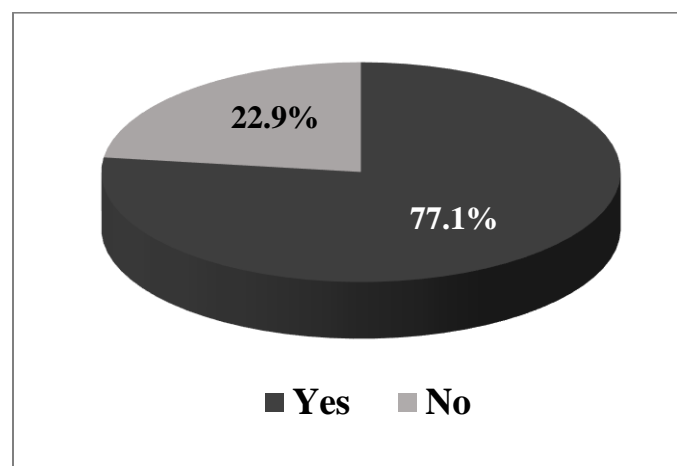


Figure 18. Percentage of hunters that failed to report harvest for a public access site by the February 15th windshield card deadline ($n=1,425$).

Approximately 57.5% of hunters kept their own records (e.g. Excel spreadsheet) of daily harvest during the hunting season (Figure 17). Almost 23% of hunters indicated that they had failed to report their harvest for a public access site by the February 15th windshield card deadline (Figure 18). Those who indicated waiting until the end of the season (28.1%) to update their windshield card information to the online system were more likely to fail to report their harvest than those who update their windshield card information after every hunting trip (15.5%) (Figure 19).

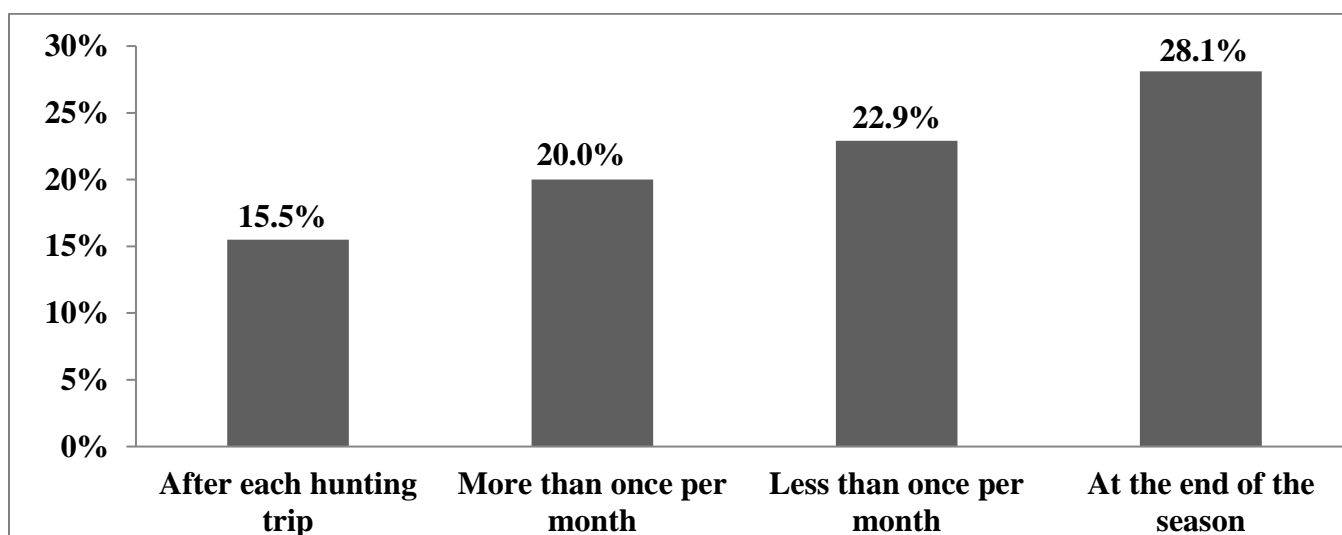


Figure 19. Percentage of respondents that failed to report their harvest for a public access site by the February 15th windshield card deadline ($n=1,226$). **Cases selected for how often respondents updated their windshield card information to the online harvest report.*

Survey respondents also gave their attitudes towards statements regarding the online windshield card harvest reporting system (Table 5). Hunters had the greatest level of agreement (68%) with the statement, “I recognize that even if I didn’t hunt a site at all, I still need to report for my windshield card online.” The majority of hunters (68%) also agreed with the statement, “The IDNR should require only ONE statewide harvest reporting system for all public access lands.” The greatest disagreement (46.6%) was with the statement, “It is often difficult to find the windshield card I need on the IDNR website.”

General Information

During the 2016-2017 season, hunters were predominantly male (Figure 20) and averaged 45.5 years ($SD \pm 16.45$, $n=1,464$) of age. Respondents have been hunting for an average of 29 years ($SD \pm 14.88$, $n=1,464$) and 65% of hunters have been hunting for over 20 years (Figure 21).

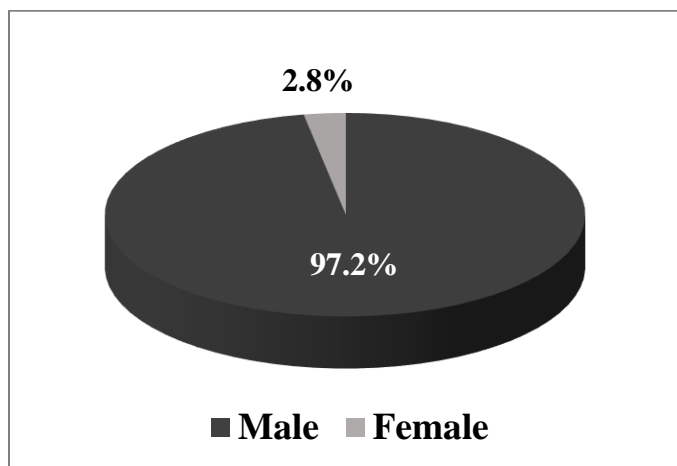


Figure 20. Gender of respondents ($n=1,471$).

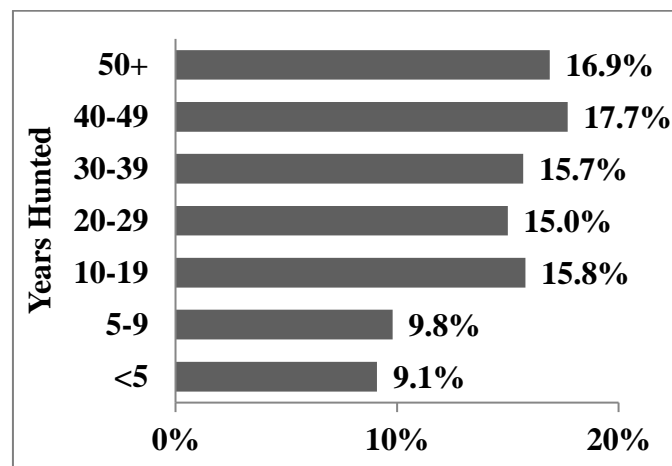


Figure 21. Total years hunted of respondents ($n=1,464$).

Table 1. Summary of harvest data from the 2016-17 Post-Season Harvest Reporting Survey ($n=1,367$)

Species	Number of Hunters	Number of Days Hunted		Number Harvested	
		Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
Duck	626	14.55	13.11	19.18	33.17
Geese	493	13.49	15.09	8.87	16.86
Rabbit	207	6.24	9.33	4.24	7.10
Dove	402	3.60	3.77	16.75	21.99
Squirrel	343	7.14	11.65	9.35	17.02
Turkey	373	5.18	4.97	0.62	1.06
Deer	996	15.29	14.77	0.83	1.02

Table 2. Number of public hunting sites hunted during the 2016-17 season that required Online Windshield Cards ($n=1,240$). **Cases selected by number of public sites hunted during the 2016-17 season.*

Public Sites Hunted ($n=1,095$)	Sites Requiring Online Windshield Cards						
	0	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10 ≤
0	100%						
1	18.5%	81.5%					
2	15.5%	42.7%	41.8%				
3	11.7%	38.0%	26.9%	23.4%			
4	12.1%	34.8%	21.2%	13.6%	18.2%		
5 - 9	16.9%	58.2%	17.7%	4.6%	1.7%	1.0%	
10 ≤	9.1%	36.4%	9.1%	18.2%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%

Table 3. Summary of satisfaction for each of the following harvest reporting systems. **Satisfaction rated on a 5-point unipolar scale from very dissatisfied (1) to very satisfied (5).*

	Windshield Card ($n=1,399$)	Online/Phone for deer & turkey only ($n=1,361$)	Drop Box ($n=1,311$)	Check Station ($n=1,333$)
Mean	3.76	4.06	3.74	3.85
Standard Deviation	1.16	1.07	1.07	1.15
“Have Not Used” (%)	12.4%	24.1%	50.3%	47.1%

Table 4. Number of online windshield cards received by the number of online windshield cards used to hunt public access land during the 2016-17 season.

Cards Received (<i>n</i> =1,095)	Cards Used (<i>n</i> =856)					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
0	100%					
1	10.1%	89.9%				
2	8.1%	26.6%	65.3%			
3	4.2%	19.7%	28.2%	47.9%		
4	3.4%	17.2%	37.9%	17.2%	24.1%	
5	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	41.7%	25.0%

* Cases selected by the number of online windshield cards received during the 2016-17 season.

Table 5. Respondents' agreement or disagreement with statements regarding the Online Windshield Card Harvest Reporting System, as reported from the 2016-17 Post-Season Harvest Reporting survey.

	(1) Strongly Disagree (%)	(2) Disagree (%)	(3) Slightly Disagree (%)	(4) Unsure (%)	(5) Slightly Agree (%)	(6) Agree (%)	(7) Strongly Agree (%)
It is easy to find which public hunting access sites require online windshield cards. ($n=1,379$, $\bar{x}=4.6$, S.D. 1.67)	5.5	8.4	11.0	19.7	15.5	31.0	8.8
The hunter fact sheets on the IDNR website clearly state when an online windshield card is required. ($n=1,374$, $\bar{x}=4.96$, S.D. 1.44)	2.5	5.0	5.2	26.1	14.2	37.0	10.0
It is often difficult to find the windshield card I need on the IDNR website. ($n=1,371$, $\bar{x}=3.59$, S.D. 1.67)	9.7	24.6	12.3	23.3	14.4	11.5	4.2
The IDNR clearly communicates the rules and procedures for using the online windshield cards. ($n=1,367$, $\bar{x}=4.86$, S.D. 1.52)	3.6	4.7	9.6	20.4	17.7	34.2	9.8
I'm aware that I can update my windshield card any time prior to the February 15 th deadline. ($n=1,371$, $\bar{x}=5.19$, S.D. 1.53)	3.4	4.2	3.6	22.1	8.5	41.7	16.5
It is clearly stated that each individual hunter must possess their own windshield card while hunting as group ("party hunting") ($n=1,375$, $\bar{x}=5.01$, S.D. 1.62)	4.8	5.4	4.2	23.3	9.4	38.3	14.6
I recognize that even if I didn't hunt a site at all, I still need to report for my windshield card online. ($n=1,372$, $\bar{x}=5.31$, S.D. 1.59)	5.1	3.6	2.8	15.6	8.5	45.8	18.7
I find it extra work to report harvest for a single species multiple times using different systems. ($n=1,367$, $\bar{x}=4.92$, S.D. 1.69)	4.5	6.9	4.4	26.3	11.8	25.7	20.3
The IDNR should require only ONE statewide harvest reporting system for all public access lands. ($n=1,374$, $\bar{x}=5.38$, S.D. 1.75)	4.3	5.9	2.3	19.5	6.7	25.3	36.0

Appendix A

2016-17 Post-Season Harvest Reporting Survey



Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
&
The Illinois Natural History Survey



ILLINOIS NATURAL
HISTORY SURVEY
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. Disclosure of information is voluntary.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is interested in hunters' evaluations of the harvest reporting procedures in Illinois. Please take about 10 minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. Your responses will tell us more about the current harvest reporting systems and hunter satisfaction of the methods.

ALL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

*Postage-paid return envelope provided

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the Officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Section 1. Hunting Activity. Please provide the following information about your hunting activity during the 2016-17 hunting season in Illinois.

1. Did you purchase a hunting license during 2016? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If "No," Please go to Question 2)
 - 1a. Did you purchase your hunting license online? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Did you hunt any wildlife species in Illinois between March 2016 and February 2017?
☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois for the following species between March 1, 2016 - February 28, 2017. Include only game harvested and days you personally hunted in Illinois. Count only game you retrieved; **do not count animals you were not able to retrieve.** Count any part of a day hunted as 1 day.

Species	Number of Days Hunted	Number Harvested
Duck	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Geese	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Rabbit	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Dove	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Squirrel	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Turkey	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Deer	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Section 2. Public Land Hunting & Satisfaction. Please tell us about your hunting experience during the 2016-17 hunting season in Illinois. Please report your answers to the following using only your personal experience.

1. On which type of land do you hunt **most often**? (Please select one response.)

<input type="checkbox"/> My own private property	<input type="checkbox"/> Public property (State, Federal, and other public lands)
<input type="checkbox"/> IRAP land	<input type="checkbox"/> Private property not owned by me
<input type="checkbox"/> Private outfitter property	<input type="checkbox"/> Private property owned by my family
2. Did you hunt public sites at any time in Illinois during the 2016-17 hunting seasons?
☐ Yes ☐ No (If "No", please go to Question 4)
3. How many public sites did you hunt during the 2016-17 season? Sites
 - 3a. How many of the sites you hunted required the Free Online Windshield Card? Sites
4. **In a typical hunting season**, how many different public sites do you normally hunt? Sites
5. Please rate your **SATISFACTION** for each of the following **harvest reporting systems** that you have experience using by circling the number that matches your response.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Unsure	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Have Not Used
Free Site Permit (Windshield Card)	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Online/Phone reporting for deer and turkeys only	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Drop box	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Check station	1	2	3	4	5	NA

6. Which **ONE** of the following methods for reporting harvest do you **prefer to use MOST**? (Check only one).

____ Check-in station ____ Telephone check-in ____ Online check-in ____ Online windshield card

7. Which **ONE** of the following methods for reporting harvest do you **prefer to use LEAST**? (Check only one).

____ Check-in station ____ Telephone check-in ____ Online check-in ____ Online windshield card

8. How does the public site permit process affect your desire to hunt public lands? (Please circle one)

Much Less Often	Somewhat Less Often	The Same Amount	Somewhat More Often	Much More Often
1	2	3	4	5

Section 3. Obtaining Information. Please tell us about how you obtain hunting information.

1. Which of the following **best describes how** you obtain information about harvest reporting in Illinois?

(Please select one response.)

____ Referencing a paper copy of regulations (Hunt/Trap Digest, Waterfowl Digest)

____ Calling the Illinois DNR Information Hotline

____ Visiting the Illinois DNR Website

____ Visiting an Illinois DNR Site Office

2. If available, how **likely would you be to use a 24/7 Kiosk (located at public sites)** to obtain site information?

Not at all Likely	Somewhat Likely	Moderately Likely	Extremely Likely
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	

3. How helpful would GPS coordinates for key features (e.g. parking lots, property boundaries, and landmarks) posted on the hunter fact sheets on the IDNR website be for your hunt?

Not at all Helpful	Slightly Helpful	Moderately Helpful	Extremely Helpful
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	

Section 4. Online Windshield Card Harvest Reporting System. Please tell us about your experiences and satisfaction with the Online Windshield Card Harvest Reporting System by answering the following statements.

1. Did you apply for a Free Online Windshield Card to hunt public access land during the 2016-17 season?

____ Yes ____ No

1a. If "Yes," how many windshield cards did you get? ____ cards

1b. How many of these windshield cards did you use? ____ cards

2. Which of the following **BEST** describes how often you update your windshield card information to the online harvest report? (Please check one)

____ After each hunting trip ____ More than once per month

____ Less than once per month ____ At the end of the season

3. Do you keep your own records of daily harvest during the hunting season (i.e. Excel spreadsheet)?

____ Yes ____ No

4. Have you ever failed to report harvest for a public access site by the February 15th windshield card deadline?

____ Yes ____ No

5. Please give your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements regarding the Online Windshield Card Harvest Reporting System.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
It is easy to find which public hunting access sites require online windshield cards.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The hunter fact sheets on the IDNR website clearly state when an online windshield card is required.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It is often difficult to find the windshield card I need on the IDNR website.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The IDNR clearly communicates the rules and procedures for using the online windshield cards.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I'm aware that I can update my windshield card any time prior to the February 15 th deadline.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It is clearly stated that each individual hunter must possess their own windshield card while hunting as a group ("party hunting").	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I recognize that even if I didn't hunt a site at all, I still need to report for my windshield card online.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I find it extra work to report harvest for a single species multiple times using different systems.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The IDNR should require only ONE statewide harvest reporting system for all public access lands.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Section 5. Background Information. The following questions allow us to understand more about hunters in Illinois. Please tell us a little about yourself, all responses are kept confidential.

1. How many years total have you hunted? _____ years

2. Please give your age. _____ years

3. What is your gender? ____ Male ____ Female

This study is funded by federal dollars from Wildlife Restoration Fund
through your purchase of hunting arms and ammunition.

RETURN ENVELOPE IS PROVIDED – POSTAGE-PAID
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!

Your input will help us understand more about hunters and hunting in Illinois.

Appendix B

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

May 22, 2017

Dear Illinois Hunter,

You are one of a group of hunters specially selected from throughout the state to provide information about our hunting activities in Illinois. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire, **even if you did not hunt in Illinois during the 2016-2017 seasons.** Please provide information about your activities during the 2016-2017 hunting seasons and evaluations of the harvest reporting procedures in Illinois. A postage-paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

This study, jointly conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Natural History Survey, is an effort to learn about the harvest reporting procedures in Illinois. Results of this study will help wildlife managers make decisions to improve hunting opportunities and continue to improve the harvest reporting system. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.** By responding you will help us more effectively manage hunting and improve harvest data collecting techniques in Illinois.

If you do not wish to participate, please return the blank questionnaire so we can remove your name from our mailing list.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/>. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at <http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/>.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-7193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Miller".

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Appendix C

IL Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
1816 South Oak St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Illinois Hunter,

Recently you were mailed a questionnaire about your hunting activities and evaluations of harvest reporting procedures in Illinois. We have not yet received your response. **If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. Your input is very important!**

Your name and address will be deleted from our mailing list when your questionnaire is received. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Appendix D

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

June 19, 2017

Dear Illinois Hunter,

You are one of a group of hunters specially selected from throughout the state to provide information about your hunting activities in Illinois. We recently mailed you a questionnaire regarding your activities during the 2016-2017 hunting seasons and evaluations of the harvest reporting procedures in Illinois. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you.

If you have not returned your completed questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible.

We have enclosed another copy for you. The information you and other selected hunters provide will help wildlife managers make decisions to improve hunting opportunities and continue to improve the harvest reporting system. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.**

Even if you did not hunt in Illinois during the 2016-2017 seasons, we ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the portions of the questionnaire that pertain to you. A postage paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/>. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at <http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/>.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-7193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Miller".

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Appendix E

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

July 24, 2017

Dear Illinois Hunter,

You are one of a group of hunters specially selected from throughout the state to provide information about your hunting activities in Illinois. We recently mailed you a questionnaire regarding your activities during the 2016-2017 hunting seasons and evaluations of the harvest reporting procedures in Illinois. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you.

If you have not returned your completed questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible.

We have enclosed another copy for you. The information you and other selected hunters provide will help wildlife managers make decisions to improve hunting opportunities and continue to improve the harvest reporting system. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.**

Even if you did not hunt in Illinois during the 2016-2017 seasons, we ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the portions of the questionnaire that pertain to you. A postage paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/>. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at <http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/>.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-7193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Miller".

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Appendix F

2016-2017 Season Dates and Limits Information

Small Game	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
	Rabbit (Cottontail & Swamp)	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 15, 2017 (Statewide)	Sunrise to sunset	4	10 ^a
	Cock Pheasant	Nov. 5, 2016 - Jan. 8, 2017 (North) Nov. 5, 2016 - Jan. 15, 2017 (South)		2	6 ^a
	Hungarian (Gray) Partridge			2	6 ^a
	Quail (Bobwhite)			8	20 ^a
	Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Aug. 1, 2016 - Feb. 15, 2017 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 18 - 20 and Dec. 1 - 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	5	10 ^a
	Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017 Closed Nov. 18 - 20 and Dec. 1 - 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Sunrise to sunset	No Limit	

Deer & Turkey	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
	Firearm Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader & Shotgun)	Nov. 18 - 20; Dec. 1 - 4, 2016	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One deer per firearm permit ^f
	Deer (Muzzleloading rifles only)	Dec. 9 – 11, 2016 (also allowed Dec. 1 - 4)		One deer per muzzleloading rifle permit ^f
	Special CWD Deer Season	Dec. 29, 2016 – Jan. 1, 2017 and Jan. 13 - 15, 2017		One deer per valid deer permit ^g
	Late-Winter Antlerless Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader & Shotgun)			One antlerless deer per permit
	Deer (Archery in counties with a firearm season and west of Rt. 47 in Kane County)			One deer per archery permit ^f
	Deer (Archery in Cook, DuPage, Kane [east of Route 47] and Lake counties)			
	Youth Firearm Deer Season	Oct. 8 - 10, 2016 and Nov. 18 - 20, 2016		One deer
	Youth Turkey Season (1 permit per year)	March 25 - 26, 2017 (South) April 1 - 2, 2017 (North)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One gobbler or bearded hen, counts toward maximum of 3 spring permits
	Turkey (Spring Shotgun or Archery)	April 3 - May 4, 2017 ^a (South) April 10 - May 11, 2017 ^a (North)		One gobbler or bearded hen per permit, maximum of 3
Turkey (Fall Shotgun Season)	Oct. 22 – 30, 2016	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	One either-sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2	
Turkey (Fall Archery)	Oct. 1, 2016 - Jan. 15, 2017, except closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One either-sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2	

	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Migratory Game Birds & Waterfowl	Dove ^c	Sept. 1 - Nov. 14, 2016; Dec. 26, 2016 - Jan. 9, 2017	Sunrise to sunset	15 ^c	45 ^c
	Rail (Sora & Virginia only)	Sept. 3 - Nov. 11, 2016		25	75
	Common Snipe	Sept. 3 - Dec. 18, 2016		8	24
	Woodcock	Oct. 15 - Nov. 28, 2016		3	9
	Crow	Oct. 28, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	No Limit	
	Teal	Sept. 3 - 18, 2016 (All Zones)	Sunrise to sunset	6	18
	Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1 - 15, 2016 (North and Central) (So. Central and South)	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	5	15
	Youth (see Special Regulations)	Oct. 8 - 9, 2016 (North) Oct. 15 - 16, 2016 (Central) Nov. 5 - 6, 2016 (South Central) Nov. 12 - 13, 2016 (South)		2	6
	Ducks	Oct. 15 - Dec. 13, 2016 (North) Oct. 22 - Dec. 20, 2016 (Central) Nov. 11, 2016 - Jan. 9, 2017 (So. Central) Nov. 24, 2016 - Jan. 22, 2017 (South)		All species open, see bag limits for each*	
	Mergansers			6*	18*
	Coots			5*	15*
				15	45
	Canada Geese	Oct. 15, 2016 - Jan. 12, 2017 (North) Oct. 22 - 30, 2016 and Nov. 12, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (Central) Nov. 11, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (So. Central) Nov. 24, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (South)		2	6
	Snow Geese (Snow/Blue and Ross' Geese)	Oct. 15, 2016 - Jan. 12, 2017 (North) Oct. 22, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (Central) Nov. 11, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (So. Central) Nov. 24, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (South)		20	Unlimited
	Brant			1	3

2016-2017 Season Dates and Limits Information *(continued)*

Waterfowl (Cont.)	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
	White-fronted Geese (Specklebellies)	Oct. 17, 2016 – Jan. 12, 2017 (North) Nov. 5, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017 (Central) Nov. 11, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017 (So. Central) Nov. 24, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017 (South)	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	6
	Conservation Order Light Geese (see Special Regulations)	Jan. 13 – March 31, 2017 (North) Feb. 1 – March 31, 2017 (Central, So. Central and South)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	Unlimited	Unlimited

2016 – 2017 Illinois Waterfowl Season (please refer to the Illinois Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations for more regulations)

***Bag Limit – DUCKS** – Bag limits on ducks are as follows: The basic daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks of any species including all teal species, (except mergansers); however, no more than 4 shall be mallards (no more than 2 hen mallards) and not more than 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 pintails, 2 canvasback and not more than 1 black duck and 1 mottled duck. The daily bag limit for all mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit for ducks and mergansers is three (3) times the daily bag limit by species and sex.

Special Regulations

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day Regulations

1.) Youth hunters must be 17 years of age or younger and must have a hunting license and HIP registration/certification unless hunting on property where they reside. No stamps are required for youths under 16. State and federal waterfowl stamps are required for all hunters age 16 and older, even those hunting with a Youth License, unless exempt (see page 6). Hunters aged 18 years and older may not hunt waterfowl and coots during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, even if hunting with a Youth License.

Conservation Order Light Goose Season Regulations (Spring Snow Goose Season)

1.) Unplugged shotguns may be used. There is no limit to the number of shells that may be placed in a shotgun. 2.) Electronic calling devices may be used. 3.) No federal duck stamp required. 4.) Illinois duck stamp and hunting license required.

Furbearers—Hunting	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	SPECIAL REGULATIONS
	Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 5, 2016 - Feb. 10, 2017 (North) Nov. 10, 2016 - Feb. 15, 2017 (South) Closed Nov. 18 - 20 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1 - 4 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted except Nov. 5 (North) and Nov. 10 (South) opens at sunrise ^a	Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to take a bobcat. Limit one bobcat per person per season. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of taking a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited.
	Bobcat and Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 10, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 18 - 20 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1 - 4 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted except Nov. 10 opens at sunrise ^a	
	Coyote and Striped Skunk	Year round (Statewide) Closed Nov. 18 - 20 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and closed Dec. 1 - 4 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in counties open for firearm deer hunting ^a	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset; open 24 hours Nov. 10, 2016 - March 15, 2017 ^a	

Furbearers—Trapping	SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	LIMIT	SPECIAL REGULATIONS
	Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, Mink, Muskrat, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote, Badger and Bobcat	Nov. 5, 2016 - Jan. 20, 2017 (North) Nov. 10, 2016 - Jan. 25, 2017 (South)	For badger, 2 per person per season in north zone and 1 per person per season in south zone; for bobcat, 1 per person per season.	Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to take a bobcat. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of taking a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited.
	Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1 - Sept. 30, 2016 (Statewide)	None	
	Beaver	Nov. 5, 2016 - March 31, 2017 (North) Nov. 10, 2016 - March 31, 2017 (South)		
	River Otter	Nov. 5, 2016 - March 31, 2017 (North) Nov. 10, 2016 - March 31, 2017 (South)	5 per person per season (statewide)	Must purchase Otter Registration Permit within 48 hours after each otter is trapped. Must affix official CITES tag to each pelt.
	Extended Spring Season for Mink and Muskrat	Begins at sunset on Jan. 20, 2017 - closes at sunset on Feb. 15, 2017 (North) Begins at sunset on Jan. 25, 2017 - closes at sunset on Feb. 15, 2017 (South)	None	No foothold traps may be set for mink or muskrat. Body-gripping (killer) traps must be completely submerged underwater.

^a On the 2nd day of the hunting season, you may possess no more than twice the daily bag limit.

^b South — 1st season — April 3 - 7; 2nd season — April 8 - 13; 3rd season — April 14 - 19; 4th season — April 20 - 26; 5th season — April 27 - May 4
North — 1st season — April 10 - 14; 2nd season — April 15 - 20; 3rd season — April 21 - 26; 4th season — April 27 - May 3; 5th season — May 4 - 11

^c The daily bag and possession limits include mourning doves and white-winged doves in the aggregate. There is no bag limit on Eurasian-collared doves and ringed turtle doves, but they may be taken only during the established season dates and hours and using only legal methods for mourning doves. Hunters may not remain in the field for the purpose of taking Eurasian-collared doves or ringed turtle doves after they reach their daily bag limit for mourning/white-winged doves.

^d During the Archery Deer Season bow hunting hours for coyote, striped skunk, raccoon, opossum, red fox and gray fox will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

^e Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may take coyotes during firearm deer season by shotgun with slugs, muzzleloader or handgun from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

^f No hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than two antlered deer during a year, including the youth, archery, muzzleloader and firearm seasons. For the purpose of this bag limit, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates are within the same 12-month period that begins July 1.

^g Antlered deer bag limit does not apply to this season.

Appendix G

Wildlife Management Units and Furbearer Management Units in Illinois

